

Citizens' Energy Challenge Committee
Minutes of September 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

Present: Members Nicholas Solitro, Pierre Duval, Richard Galipeau, and Denise Stetson; and Juliana Berry, Town Planner.

Also Present: Karen Stewart, Smart Power; and Peter Stetson, volunteer.

A motion was made by R. Galipeau, seconded by P. Duval, to approve the minutes of August 16, 2018. All Ayes.

J. Berry announced to the Committee that she requested that the Town Council, via resolution, change the name to the Green Energy Committee to reflect its expanded mission and goal and an extended expiration of December 2020. The Council unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

With respect to the WeeGreen initiative, now called "Go Green, Richmond!", J. Berry explained the solar vendor's contract is with SmartPower and not the Town. She did double-check with the Town Solicitor about the SmartPower's process for choosing Sun Nerds- contacting known successful local companies and asking for submissions of statements of qualifications- and the Solicitor told her that no Town RFQ is needed. Sun Nerds has staff that lives in Town and they have a good track record of being able to handle the work.

The new WeeGreen website will have a "Go Green, Richmond!" logo. K. Stewart walked the group through the new website and how it will function. There are fields for people to request solar installation information, sign up to volunteer, and use the marketplace. The Committee can use it to organize activities and events.

J. Berry said that Richmond's program will apply to all of Washington County so that people from neighboring towns can sign up; Richmond will remain the organizer with SmartPower/WeeGreen and Sun Nerds as partners. Other towns can either create their own campaign or partner officially with Richmond to help coordinate local events.

The members discussed who would serve in various project roles. SmartPower will provide flyers and start the website, but someone from the Town will also be able to administer the site. J. Berry will be the Partnership Coordinator and the Primary Point of Contact. N. Solitro will be the Team Leader. R. Galipeau will be the Events and Workshop Coordinator as will N. Solitro. D. Stetson as a Volunteer coordinator will recruit and track volunteers in a spreadsheet, and P. Duval as a Volunteer Coordinator will help with photography and setups. Everyone will work together closely.

The targets for flyer and info distribution are events that will happen very soon: Primary election day 9/12; Richmond Elementary open house 9/17 & 18; Chariho Middle School open house 9/27; and Chariho High School open house 10/4. D. Stetson suggested adding a QR code to the flyers.

R. Galipeau asked about training, as he is concerned he won't be able to answer questions from the public at these events. For questions about the solar, people will be directed to Sun Nerds (or the website to fill in information) for how much will it cost or how a system gets designed. At events they will fill out a form to get contacted by Sun Nerds.

K. Stewart said that WeeGreen is meant to be an education and fundraising campaign via both the solar program and the online marketplace. R. Galipeau and D. Stetson expressed some misgivings about the possible negative perception that residents and business owners in surrounding communities might have about Richmond receiving the 20%. It was agreed that the opportunity for reduced cost solar is the main goal and should be emphasized. The revenue amounts are relatively small and not something to concentrate on at this early point of the program.

Sun Nerds should be able to provide a weekly or monthly report as the project moves forward.

J. Berry asked for a couple of photos and testimonials from current solar homeowners for promotional material.

On a motion by N. Solitro, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Attested by Denise L. Stetson, Secretary